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NOTES ON CURRENT AND RECENT EVENTS.

ANTHROPOLOGY—PSYCHOLOGY—LEGAL-MEDICINE.

Sterilization of Criminals and Defectives.—The question of "sterilization" has passed nearly through its academic stage. It is no longer to be regarded merely as the aberration or idiosyncrasy of some "crank" warden, doctor, or alienist. I was told last summer by the conservative secretary of a Western State Board of Charities, that the only trouble with sterilization is that it is not used often enough! But when we begin to find serious notice taken by European scientific workers of American applications of sterilization we may safely presume that the principle has arrived! The German publication, *Juristisch-psychiatrische Grenzfragen*, (Vol. III) last year contained two notable articles on this subject. One from Dr. Hans W. Maier, on the North American laws against the inheritance of crime and insanity and their application; the other from Dr. Emil Oberholzer, on castration and sterilization of the insane in Switzerland. Dr. Löffler, editor of the *Oesterreichische Zeitschrift für Strafrecht* (Heft. 6, 1912) notes these articles and gives a very fair resume of the problems involved. Other recent treatments of the sterilization question from different angles are to be found in *Archiv f. Kriminal-Anthropologie*, etc., XXXIX, 32; *Zeitschrift f. die gesamte Strafrechtswissenschaft*, XVIII, 446; *Monatschrift f. Kriminalpsychologie und Strafrechtsreform*, V. 734-743. Dr. Ernst Rosenfeld, in writing of his impressions as a delegate to the last International Prison Congress, (*Blätter f. Gefängniskunde*, 45:286-9) concludes unfavorably on the practice of sterilization at least as he saw it in Indiana. *Auf mich hat der Vorgang einen abscheulichen Eindruck gemacht*, he says. But another distinguished foreign delegate, Dr. Gennat, Director of Prisons at Hamburg, recently expressed himself as favoring "emasculatation," at least of men convicted of crimes against decency. We need not multiply examples. Enough has been said to warrant the criminologist or the lawyer in treating the sterilization question seriously in formulating his science or his project for legal reform.

ARTHUR J. TODD, University of Illinois.

Report of Physician and Psychologist on the Reformatory Population at St. Cloud, Minn.—The following report to General Superintendent F. L. Randall, bears the date of May 16, 1913. It covers a year's work by Dr. Green for the population of the State Reformatory, at St. Cloud.

To the General Superintendent:

Mental examinations have been made in the cases of 250 inmates up to this time, and I am submitting herewith a report of my findings.

In making these examinations the Binet-Simon tests were used, supplemented in some cases by tests devised by Dr. William Healy, of Chicago, and used by him in the Juvenile Court. The Binet-Simon test, as you know, consists of graded mental tasks, increasingly difficult to perform proportionate to advance in age. The advantage possessed by this system of measuring the intelligence is that the tests are standardized to various ages from 3 to 12 years, eliminating the personal factor of the examiner in great part, which is very desirable. These tests were originally devised for measuring the intelligence of children. In applying them to adult subjects it becomes very neces-

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sary for one who reviews the results to remember that the man whose chronological age is 25, but whose mental age is 10, has had 15 years of experience and training, more than one whose mental and chronological age is 10. From a superficial observation the former would naturally appear to be entitled to a higher mental grade, which is only apparent for the reason stated, and not real.

In the 250 cases examined, I have found:

Mentally average, or above	89
Morons (Mental age 8 to 12)	147
Imbeciles (Mental age 5 to 7)	14
Total	<hr/> 250

The English Royal Commission of 1904, formulated the following definitions, which have been adopted by the American Association for the study of feeble-mindedness.

Morons: Those feeble-minded persons whose mental development is less than normal but exceeds that of imbeciles, and who are capable, under favorable circumstances, of earning their own living. Of this class, you will note, we have 147.

Imbeciles: Those feeble-minded persons whose mental development exceeds that of idiots, but who are incapable of earning their own living. Of this class we have 14.

This partial survey takes into account a little more than half of the population, but I believe final results will show the percentage of defectiveness practically unchanged. These cases were taken numerically; no selection was practised, except in cases where I received a special request from you for an examination to be made.

An attempt was made to find out from those examined the existence of insanity or feeble-mindedness in their parents or families. The difficulty met with here is obvious. Those who are mentally subnormal would have little knowledge of the mental defect in members of their families, unless such persons had been taken to the asylum or school for feeble-minded.

In some cases too, I feel assured that for other reasons information of this kind was denied. Under such conditions of inquiry, however, 10% of those examined admitted having insane or feeble-minded parents or relatives. Five have suffered at some time with fits, epileptic in character, and 20 are admitted masturbators.

I am led to believe by the large percentage of mentally subnormal, the nature of their crimes, and in many cases repetitions, that most of the crimes for which men are committed here should be credited to a lack of intelligence. In other words, their criminal acts seem to be due more to a lack of mental development, and not to acquired viciousness.

I regret that this report is necessarily so incomplete, but other work engaging my time, you will understand, has made it impossible for me to do more in the way of making mental tests up to this time.

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed) E. F. GREEN, Physician.

Psychological Problems of Penal Jurisprudence.—Under the above title Andreotti Alfredo has in the May-June number of *Il Progresso del Diritto*